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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/813,883	03/31/2004	Masaharu Kocha	A36175	5749
21003	7590	12/12/2008	EXAMINER	
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P. 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA 44TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10112-4498				FLETCHER III, WILLIAM P
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1792				
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			12/12/2008	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

DLNYDOCKET@BAKERBOTTS.COM

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/813,883	KOCHA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	William P. Fletcher III	1792	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 September 2008.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 3-15 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-14 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 3-5 and 15 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment and remarks filed on 10 September 2008 are noted with appreciation.
2. Claims 3-15 are now pending.

Election/Restrictions

3. Claims 6-14 remain withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 31 March 2008.

Response to Arguments

4. The objection to the abstract is withdrawn in view of the amendment.
5. Applicant's arguments filed 10 September 2008, with respect to the prior art rejections set forth in the prior Office action, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
 - A. Applicant argues that the '776 reference does not disclose the plating solution passing through the interior of a cylinder to return to a main tank. The Examiner disagrees. As noted in the prior Office action, the plating solution passes through and deposits on article to be coated (9) and exits into tank (11) for collection. It is the Examiner's position that collection of this material facilitates later re-use and that said re-use would necessarily require return to a main tank at some future time. The language of the claim does not require that the steps be carried out in such a fashion as one step *immediately* follows the other.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
7. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).
8. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art or US 5,810,992, *either* further in view of JP 03-068776.
 - A. This claim remains rejected for the reasons set forth in the prior Office action and as explained above.
9. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art or US 5,810,992, *either* in view of JP 03-068776, as applied to claim 3 above, further in view of JP 57-169097.
 - A. This claim is rejected for the reasons set forth above and in connection with claim 4 in the prior Office action.

10. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art or US 5,810,992, *either* in view of JP 03-068776, as applied to claim 3 above, further in view of JP 06-159131.

A. This claim is rejected for the reasons set forth above and in connection with claim 5 in the prior Office action.

11. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art or US 5,810,992, *either* in view of JP 03-068776 and JP 57-169097, as applied to claim 4 above, further in view of JP 06-159131.

A. The combined teaching of Applicant's admitted prior art or US 5,810,992, *either* in view of JP 03-068776 and JP 57-169097, is detailed in connection with claim 4 above.

B. None of these references expressly teaches the claimed Ni-P-B plating solution.

C. JP 06-159131, cited by Applicant, teaches the electroless coating of the internal surfaces of a cylinder of an internal combustion engine with this plating solution. Such a plating solution is advantageously more environmentally friendly than other, prior art Cr-containing compositions. See English-language abstract.

D. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to effect the known electroless plating of the prior art according to a process using Ni-P-B plating solution taught by JP 06-159131. One skilled in the art would have been motivated to do so by the desire and expectation of successfully effecting plating

of the internal surfaces of the cylinder using an environmentally-friendly plating solution.

Conclusion

12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William P. Fletcher III whose telephone number is (571) 272-1419. The examiner can normally be reached on Sunday, 5:00 AM - 12:00 PM and Monday through Friday, 5:00 AM - 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy H. Meeks can be reached on (571) 272-1423. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/William Phillip Fletcher III/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1792

8 December 2008